

The Honorable Michael B. Seyb
Mayor
Pretty Prairie
119 W Main
P.O. Box 68
Pretty Prairie, Kansas 67570-0068

Dear Mayor Seyb:

I'm writing to call your attention to the matter of the drinking water in the town of Pretty Prairie. As I'm sure you are aware, for a period of nearly 20 years, the town's drinking water has exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's standard for nitrates. Based on monitoring data that the water system has provided to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, it appears that the nitrate level in your drinking water is continuing to increase.

Given our common interest in protecting the health of the citizens of Pretty Prairie, the EPA wishes to begin discussions with you to find and implement a permanent solution to address the nitrates in your town's drinking water.

We understand that Pretty Prairie has made a number of attempts at working with both the EPA and the KDHE to address this important water quality issue in the past. We must emphasize, however, that the approach of using bottled water as a permanent solution to address nitrates in drinking water consumed by infants and pregnant/nursing mothers, is inconsistent with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. Because the nitrate level in your water continues to increase, the risk to individuals exposed to this acute contaminant also increases.

We are unaware of any specific actions that the town has initiated over the past several years to abate the nitrates in its drinking water. If the town has taken any actions or is planning to take any actions to reduce nitrate levels in its drinking water to meet EPA's Maximum Contaminant Level of 10 mg/L, please advise EPA of those actions. EPA's goal is to ensure that the town takes action within a reasonable time frame to address the nitrate contamination in its water. In order to ensure that such actions come to pass, we believe that Pretty Prairie should enter into an enforceable agreement with either the KDHE, or the EPA.

The EPA would like to meet with you to discuss this matter. It is our intention to invite representatives of the KDHE to participate in any such meeting. Please contact me at (913) 551-7544 within one week of receiving this letter so that we can make meeting arrangements.

Sincerely,

Diane L. Huffman
Chief
Water Enforcement Branch

CC:

Darrel Plummer, KDHE

BCC:

Karen Flourney, WWPD

MARQUESS	DUDDING	MINDRUP	HUFFMAN
WENF	CNSL	DRWM	WENF